

The Thomas Carpenter House
Southeast Corner Main and Martel Streets
Mantua, Gloucester County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Thomas Carpenter House
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Owner: Veronica C. Costello, Swedesboro, N.J., 1939

Dates of Erection: (1) before 1773 and (2) after 1787

Architect: Unknown

Builders: (1) Restore Eastlack (d. 1773), and Thomas
Carpenter (the owner 1787)

Present Condition: Very well maintained

Number of Stories: Two and one-half and cellar

Materials of Construction: Foundation - local stone

Exterior walls - timber
frame, now covered with
modern asbestos shingles

Interior walls - plaster
and lath on studding

Chimneys - brick, built
into inside of gable end
and party walls

Roof - gable on older unit,
gambrel on newer unit, all
roofed with modern asbestos
shingles

Historical Data:

By a deed of 15 August 1787, Hezekiah Eastlack and wife Anna of Deptford Township, Gloucester County, conveyed to Thomas Carpenter for 250 Pounds, the 50 acre tract "whereon Hezekiah Eastlack lately dwelt" in Greenwich Twp. in the same county, describing it as "Beginning at

a post by the edge of the great Mantua Creek nearly opposite the public wharf, formerly Joseph Chews", and as being bounded by the lower bank of Mantua Creek, reciting grantor's title successively from his father Restore Eastlack^(a), Francis Eastlack^(b), Timothy Eglinton Jr.^(c), Timothy Eglinton Sr., Peter Coxse, John Coxse, and John Reading to whom originally it was surveyed. None but the first of these conveyances cited are found recorded in the public archives, unfortunately.

The property above described is found at the southern side of the village of Mantua (formerly called Carpenter's Landing) in the township of the same name, which later was set off from Greenwich Township in 1853. It is clear from the above documentary evidence and from our survey of the building that the northern and older half of this two-part house as it now stands was erected by Restore Eastlack abovenamed who died in 1773. Certainly the design and details of the main stairway and the panelled walls and mantel pieces therein all testify to ante-Revolution date. It is likewise evident that the southern half of the house was built as an addition by Thomas Carpenter soon after his purchase of the place in 1787. This Thomas Carpenter of Carpenter's Landing (Mantua) was born 2 November 1752 at Salem, New Jersey, son of Preston Carpenter and his first wife Hannah Smith, and he died 7 July 1847 (in his house) and was buried in the cemetery adjacent to Friends Meeting House in nearby Woodbury. He had married on 13 April 1774 Mary Tonkin, daughter of Edward Tonkin and his second wife Mary Cole, the rector of St. Mary's Church, Burlington, officiating. Thomas Carpenter resided at

(a) Abstract of the Will of Restore Eastlack of Greenwich Township, Gloucester County, dated 17 April 1773, proved 24 May 1773, being "afflicted with smallpox", devises to son Hezekiah my house and 50 acres which was formerly Timothy Eglinton Junior's and conveyed to me by my father Francis Eastlack. (N.J. Archives 34, p. 168)

(b) One Francis Eastlack was married to Phebe Driver on 5 mo. 20th 1733 per records of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting of Friends, and the will of one Francis Eastlack was proved in Gloucester Co. 1783.

(c) Admin. on the estate of Timothy Eglinton was granted 1760 in the same County.

first on the farm of his grandfather Smith near the almshouse in Salem County. On 19 March 1777 he was commissioned paymaster of the militia of Salem and Gloucester Counties, having been adjutant in Colonel Dick's Battalion from November 1776 to January 1777 and quartermaster thereafter. After the Revolution, in 1785 he became a merchant for two years at Cooper's Point (Camden), but forming a partnership with Col. Thomas Heston (d) his wife's nephew by marriage, he removed thence to Carpenter's Landing, the village now named Mantua in Gloucester County.

Heston and Carpenter rebuilt and established the well known glassworks at Hestonville (Glassboro), having bought in 1781 at sheriff's sale the property from the Stanger Brothers (who had founded the business there) and then engaged the latter as employees. Carpenter having purchased the Eastlack house in 1787 as abovesaid, resided there at Mantua, some seven miles northwest of the glassworks, in order to receive the products of the factory as sent down by waggon and to forward them thence by small sloops or flats on Mantua Creek to Philadelphia. The company also maintained a store and lumber business at Carpenter's Landing until the death of Col. Heston in 1802, when all the property was divided and Thomas Carpenter retired and continued to reside in this house at Mantua until his death in 1847. They were succeeded in the business by the former's widow and the latter's son Edward Carpenter (who died 13 March 1813).(e)

(d) See account of him in Proceedings of N. J. Hist. Soc., 3rd series, vol. 3, pp. 106-7. (1902)

(e) "Samuel Carpenter and his Descendants", Phila. 1912 p. 58. See photo here surveyed, labelled "Built by Thomas Carpenter about 1790", opp. p. 60, when in fact only part of it can be ascribed to him.

By a deed of 22 April 1848, Edward H. Saunders, administrator of the will of Thomas Carpenter, deceased, conveyed to John L. C. Tatem for \$1700 the ten acre lot with the house here considered, part of the 50 acre lot at Carpenter's Landing (Mantua) which Thomas Carpenter had purchased in 1787 as first above related. This grantee, John L. Tatem of Greenwich Township, with wife Abigail Ann conveyed the same ten acres to John A. Martel of Philadelphia for \$2000 by their deed of 8 April 1850.

In a deed from the Master in Chancery, 23 March 1887, pursuant to a decree against Charles Martel (apparently an heir of the grantee last above-named) the property was conveyed to Wallace McGeorge and William P. Tatem for \$2000, and by deed of 6 May following, McGeorge and wife Issabella C. of Woodbury and Tatem and wife Achsah of Collingswood, conveyed a small part of the same, with the house to Albert Trenchard M. D. of Mantua for \$1500. Dr. Trenchard sold it to Margaretta E. wife of Camille Martel for the same price by deed of 11 June 1890; and she devised the same to her husband by her will of 22 September following. On 19 June 1913, he passed it to George Blake for \$2400, and the latter with wife Elizabeth of Camden, New Jersey passed it to John J. Costello of Mantua on 25 July following, for the same amount. Finally, said Costello conveyed it to Veronica C. Costello on 28 August 1933, describing the property as comprising lots number 1, 2, 3 and 33 on a map prepared for Dr. Wallace McGeorge and William P. Tatem, and as having a frontage of 175 feet on the east side of Main Street and 215 feet on the south side of the intersecting Martel Street, in Mantua.

Bibliography:

A search of title in the Land and Probate records of Gloucester County and of the Secretary of West New Jersey by Oscar F. Benjamin, H.A.B.S. abstractor

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Approved:

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